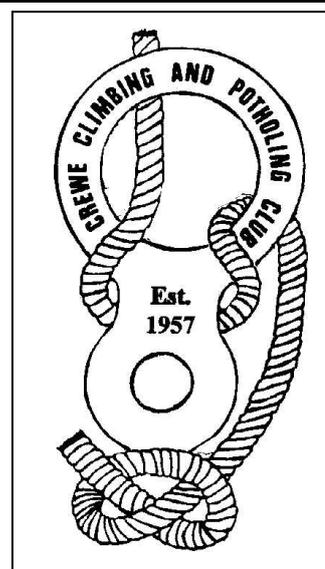


C.C.P.C. Newsletter 119 June 2019

Log on to www.ccpc.org.uk



Editor: Steve Knox – colinknox@btinternet.com. All contributions welcome – please !!

Recent Club Meets, etc., during April, May & June 2019.

Mon. 1 st April	'Bleeding Wolf', Scholar Green.	CCPC Monthly Meeting.
Sat. 6 th April	Dukes Barn, Beeley, Derbyshire.	CCPC Training Session : SRT.
Thurs 11 th Apr.	Bagshawe Cavern, Derbyshire.	CCPC Caving Trip.
Sun. 14 th April	Ireby Fell Cavern, Yorkshire.	CCPC Caving Trip.
Tues 23 rd April	Rescue Headquarters, Buxton.	DCRO Training: Rigging for Rescue.
Wk.End 27 th & 28 th April	Swildon's Hole, Mendips.	CCPC weekend.
Sat. 11 th May	Easegill Caverns, Yorkshire.	CCPC Caving Trip.
Sun. 12 th May	Rescue Headquarters, Buxton.	DCRO Open Day & Training Event.
Mon. 13 th May	'Bleeding Wolf', Scholar Green.	CCPC Monthly Meeting.
Sat. 25 th May	Gaping Gill, Yorkshire.	CCPC Caving Trip.
Thur 30 th May	Blue John Caverns, Derbyshire.	DCRO / MR Combined Training.
Mon. 3 rd June	'Bleeding Wolf', Scholar Green.	CCPC Monthly Meeting.
Sat. 8 th June		DCRO Exercise.
Sun. 9 th June	Swinsto / Simpsons, Yorkshire.	CCPC Caving Trip.
Wed. 12 th June	Castleton, Derbyshire.	DCRO Dash – Fell Race – fundraising.
Sat. 22 nd June	Cautley Spout, Cumbria.	CCPC – Mountain waterfall descent.



Derbyshire Cave Rescue Organisation training events, etc., are included in the table above, as CCPC has always maintained a strong involvement with that organisation, and a number of CCPC Members continue to play a significant part in DCRO, training regularly, and turning out whenever required to assist, when called upon to help those in trouble underground.

The DCRO Open Day, listed above (12th May 2019), is held at the team base in Buxton each year, and is an excellent way for anyone interested in becoming involved to discover more about the organisation. DCRO is a charity, and exists solely to provide the kind of skilled and specialist help which, due to the nature of the environment which cavers enjoy so much (dark, cold, wet, tight, technical, etc), cannot be provided by the more familiar emergency services.

<https://www.facebook.com/DerbyshireCaveRescue>



Crewe Climbing and Potholing Club:- 6th April – SRT Training at Dukes Barn.

Six Club Members took part in a day of intensive SRT training, led by Daryl Godfrey (C.I.C.) of 'Aclimatize'. From all accounts the participants were put through their paces and were challenged to solve the sort of problems that none of us want to experience while dangling on a rope – but which we might have to deal with one day. Everyone seems to have really enjoyed the activities (including the blindfolded change-overs from abseil to prussik, and vice-versa), and hopefully came away with improved techniques and greater confidence. Similar sessions have already been requested for the future.



Crewe Climbing and Potholing Club:- 11th April – Bagshawe Cavern, Derbyshire.

This was another excellent day, with a number of Club Members guiding some of our friends from Cheshire on a trip around the more accessible parts of this mine and cave complex.



Crewe Climbing and Potholing Club:- 13th & 14th April –Yorkshire weekend, including Ireby Fell Cavern.

Ruth commented:- *'Thanks everyone for making this weekend so much (totally exhausting) fun. You all epitomise the nature of CCPC and constantly confirm that you are the best club there is full of the nicest people.*

The walk was around the most stunning scenery; the climbing was fun (so proud of those who were new to it!) And Ireby didn't disappoint - beautiful and varied.

Special thanks to Ade for organising; Steve for cooking, and Alan, Mark and Adam for patiently accompanying me out of the cave. See you all in 2 weeks!!

Ruth/ Morticia'



Crewe Climbing and Potholing Club:- 27th April – Swildon's Hole, Mendips.

This was another well-attended Meet, with a number of Members enjoying exploring this classic cave system in an area we rarely visit (probably something to do with the traffic on that long haul down the M6 & M5). There is plenty to do in the Mendips, so perhaps we can work a couple of trips a year into our busy calendar of trips.



Crewe Climbing and Potholing Club:- 11th May – Easegill Caverns, Yorkshire.

Steve Pearson-Adams reported:-

'Hi All. - Well better late than never as they say. Seven club members gathered in Inglesport, and over breakfast decided that due to the weather, Boundary Pot would have to wait for another day. Plan B was to take a look at Aygill Caverns as this was on the meets list back in February, but snowy conditions prevented members from getting there. As Aygill is quite a short trip we planned to poke around Bull Pot of the Witches afterwards, if time allowed. A quick call to Helen informing her of the change of venue, and we headed up to Bull Pot Farm, above Ease Gill.

Soon we were kitted up and heading off, only to be questioned by another group as to our intentions. Unfortunately, our permit did not include Aygill and as the other group of fourteen had the only permit we needed a quick rethink. So it was that Lancaster, Stake Pot Series was agreed upon. Another call to Helen and we were off.

Quick work was made of the rigging and the drop down the main shaft and onto Fall Pot, where the party dropped down the in-situ rope, before negotiating the boulders downwards to join the Master Cave. From there, a quick trip was made to the sump before we made our way upstream to find the upward climb through the boulders beneath Stake Pot. Once above, in Stake Pot, the traverse to the opposite side was made without incident. From there the intrepid party ventured into somewhat unfamiliar territory, but after a couple of dead ends appeared to be back on track. Several crawls later, separated by some well decorated chambers, we reached Canuck Climb (fixed ladder) with more pretties to follow before we entered Equinox Hall. Time was getting on, so after exploring a couple of the passages which led off from Equinox Hall, the group made their return to the surface, after another very enjoyable trip lasting approximately five hours. Once changed, it was off to the Martin Arms for the obligatory pint, snacks and chips, before the journey home.

Cheers, Steve P.A.'



Crewe Climbing and Potholing Club:- 25 May: Gaping Gill Winch Meet, Yorkshire.

All the Gaping Gill system routes would be rigged, so those Members who turned up could decide which they wanted to do, but it was important to book in and out at the Bradford Pothole Club's Control Tent.

Jenny Drake contributed an excellent trip-report on the following day, which attracted a number of responses:

*'Thanks everyone for an excellent trip yesterday. Eleven club members underground, plus loads of other cavers taking advantage of the rigged routes, and plenty of members of the public doing the winch and wandering around the passages near Main Chamber. The car parking in Clapham was rammed, but eventually we all managed to get parked and changed for the walk up in the sunshine. In the end, we did a **Corky's Pot** to **Marilyn Pot** through trip. Corky's was a new one to all of us and is a bit of a collector's piece. Lots of squeezes and crawls, often leading directly to the head of drops, but some fine pretties and a spectacular final pitch into Mud Hall. With our numbers, we were slow, and it was soon obvious that this was going to be a looonnnnggg trip. Main Chamber was all lit up, giving us a chance to see it in a way that you can't with just head lamps. Heather had a tag for the winch, so we left her to join the queue for the quick way out. We passed cavers going up Flood Entrance, and met another group at the base of Bar Pot. Rob and Dan decided to join them. The rest of us carried on through New Hensler's Crawl, into Hensler's Master Cave and the junction into Disappointment/Marilyn Pots. We met another party of cavers there, and another group were soon behind us. The last pitch of Marilyn, that drops into the Disappointment passage, is long and very loose at the top. We went up one at a time, waiting for each person to clear the top before risking another person climbing. Coming out into a gentle drizzle, we were very late. We sent people to sign us out at the Bradford Pothole Club's control tent at Gaping Gill and others rushed down to Clapham to call concerned partners and cancel prospective call-outs. I was trying an experiment in going to the Dales caving by train, and Heather managed to drop me off at Clapham station with minutes to spare for the last train that could get me home that day. Thanks Heather!*

Lessons: We miscalculated the effect of numbers on how long it takes to get through difficult passage and pitches, particularly ones that were new to everyone. We should perhaps, have done the trip as an exchange, or split, and done two different routes. Marilyn is a relatively easy route out, but not a fast one. More of us should have joined the queue at Bar Pot.

Other than that, a most satisfying day out. My legs will be sore for a few days to come! Jen'



The entrance to 'Corky's' !



Just a little snug in places, apparently.



Slightly smaller than some folk like.



Better, but not for long.



More crawling,



.... and yet more.



Eventually there were formations,



... so perhaps it was worth all the effort !

Rob Nevitt added his own comment:

'I agree with Jenny, it was a great trip, even with the large group. Dan and myself had a short wait before exiting out of Bar Pot, and then waited for an hour and started to get cold while looking down Marilyn. We had a chat with a caver coming up the pitch, who said no group was behind him at that time, so thinking it was going to be some time before the other CCPC Members emerged, we took the decision to walk back to Clapham, after informing Bradford of the other CCPC Member's exit route. It's comforting when you get the text everybody is out safely. Roll on the next trip. Rob'

Steve Pearson-Adam's contribution:

*Great write up Jenny. I found the route of **Corky's** via YSSUK.com which goes as follows : Entrance, first crawling section, "comfy corner", second crawl, " ferruginous passage", first pitch - Anniversary 5 mtrs, second pitch - Picnic 4 mtrs, third pitch - Arnold's 13 mtrs, fourth pitch - Prelim 10 mtrs, third crawl 'Nemesis', fifth pitch - Allyway 5 mtrs, fourth crawl 'Elephants Arse'/'the Colon', Limbo Passage, sixth pitch - Chemo Tim 9 mtrs, and finally everyone's favourite pitch - Vindication 40 mtrs.*

Great trip, way to go team!!!!!! Steve P-A

Jenny's response:

'Some of those names say it all really. This is the description in the CNCC Gaping Gill guide of the approach to the first pitch:'

"At the bottom of the entrance, a small stream leads into a flat-out crawl. Very low crawling continues for a few minutes until a 1m drop where you can (just) stand up. A further 5m tight crawl leads to a tiny chamber and the top of the first pitch. Most cavers will need to attempt this 5m crawl feet-first to avoid an impossible turn-around at the pitch head. The rigger will likely need to go in head-first to rig it and then reverse out, usually with a complement of foul language. This is great fun!" Jen

Ade added:

'We would probably not have done it if we had read all of this beforehand ! I have a lot of write-ups that are like that now - Rowter Hole, and Oxlow New Extensions being ones that spring to mind, ie. the write-ups paint a very dire and desperate cave, but in reality they are not too bad. I suppose that's the best way round to have it described!

It was a great day out, and good to do two new parts of Gaping Gill for me. As Jen says, I think we need to work on being more efficient on these trips to save delays.

Jenny:

'I suspect there would have been a mutiny if anyone had suggested this cave if we had all read the description before! Glad we did it and really not as bad as the description paints it.'

I think that just about sums it up ! A brilliant day out for all concerned. Exactly what caving as a Club Member is all about. Fantastic effort by all concerned.



Crewe Climbing and Potholing Club:- 9th June: Swinsto / Simpsons, Yorkshire.

Some CCPC members were up on Saturday 8th, but the very wet weather that day limited the possibilities. The beck in Kingsdale was in spate, though not breaking its banks and a lot of water was coming out of Keld Head. A quick trip was taken in to Yordas Pot via the Middle Entrance and the Chapter House traverse. A rather aquatic experience. Grace did a couple of pitches of the nearby Rowten Pot with some student cavers. The rain eased off in the afternoon and water levels started to

fall. On Sunday we all met up in Inglesport Cafe for breakfast and a discussion over what to do. Eventually, it was decided to abandon the initial plan for a Swinsto - Simpson's Pot exchange trip and to split in to two groups. Roughly half of us did a Swinsto to Valley Entrance trip, the other half a trip down Jingling Pot, rigging two of the routes in this vertical cave. Actual sunshine was seen in the afternoon as we all returned to the surface! We finished up at the Marten Arms, enjoying this sunshine in the garden, before heading home.

Thanks to Des Kelly for sharing his pictures on the Club Website. A few are included here.

SWINSTO:



A busy weekend overall for CCPC as other members were involved in a DCRO exercise on the Saturday, simulating a cave rescue from call-out to completion.



Crewe Climbing and Potholing Club:- 12th June – ‘DCRO Dash’, Derbyshire.

This was a new event in the Fell Running Calendar, conceived and organised by Alan Brentnall, with a little help from his friends ! The following is based on one of Alan’s pre-race e-mails:

The DCRO Dash is a brand-new fell race for 2019, which will surely be repeated, and will become a major fund raiser for the team.

The inaugural race took place on the evening of Wednesday 12 June; with registration for runners being at Speedwell Cavern car park from 5:30 pm. onwards. Details of the race, including a map of the route, could be found on the website at

<https://derbyshirecro.org.uk/the-dcro-dash/>

Work on planning, permissions and other practicalities had been ongoing since the race was first devised. Permission has been obtained from all of the landowners, and from Natural England (because it takes place in an SSSI), for the race to happen for the next three years (after which we’ll need to re-apply).

The race required quite a bit of co-ordinated effort (i.e. manpower) on the day, including marshals, radio operators, car park wardens, first aiders, results-runners and general dogsbodies. Fortunately, a good number of DCRO personnel, and friends, were willing to help, both in setting out the course during the day, and in the many essential roles while the event was underway.

Despite the unfavourable weather forecast, there were ninety-six entrants, all of whom completed the challenging course around the hills between Speedwell Cavern and Eldon Hole, with some amazing times being recorded by the front runners in each category. This was an outstanding effort by all concerned, and doubtless raised a useful amount of cash for DCRO. Well done Alan !



Alan Brentnall announcing the results of the DCRO Dash, and awarding prizes, outside Speedwell Cavern (thanks to John Harrison for allowing the use of Speedwell facilities) after the event.

Photo: Steve Knox (not the best image! I blame the late hour and the fading light).



Crewe Climbing and Potholing Club:- 22nd June – Cautley Spout, Cumbria.

We had a great day with it being a little overcast whilst we made our way to the top of the falls and the sun making an appearance whilst donning our wetsuits ... great timing.

After the toughest part of the trip (squeezing into the wetsuits) we started to descend the first cascades.

Photos: Des Kelly.



(Cautley Spout – continued:) This proved to be more difficult than it first looked with an abundance of moss both on the exposed rocks and on all the rocks just below the surface making it quite treacherous in places. A graceful abseil was definitely not the order of the day, with most of us floundering about trying to keep from having more of a shower than was necessary.

A fabulous addition to the meets list which should prove popular in years to come. Thanks to Neil for adding the trip, and for rigging on the day.



Don't Forget:

There are always additional chances to go caving or walking (..... and ?) with other Club Members, with many trips being arranged at short notice.

E-mail is the easiest way to keep in touch, and can be used to let other Members know what you are up to, and to invite them along, where possible. Remember, to get the most out of Your Club, you have to get out there, and get involved. Have fun ! Steve Knox

Coming Soon to a Saturday or Sunday near you !

The next section of the CCPC Meets List for 2019 includes the following:

Venue	Region	Grid Ref.	Grade	Alternative Venue	Region	Grid Ref
Ty Gwyn Mine, Llandudno	North Wales	Shaft: SH 781826 Adit: SH 782827		Snowdonia !!! – there are a few hills and holes.	North Wales	
Penyghent Pot	Yorks.	SD 829733	5	Sell Gill Holes – Grade 3 Or walk up Penyghent !	Yorks.	SD811743
Death's Head Hole to Boxhead Pot	Yorks.	SD668791	4	Turbary Pot – Grade 3	Yorks.	SD695775
Dan-Yr-Ogof (unconfirmed)	South Wales	SN838160	4 - 5	Little Neath River Cave – Grade 4	South Wales	SN911142
Mandale Mine	Derbys.	197661	3	Knotlow Mine - Grade 3/5	Derbys.	14386739
Birks Fell Cave	Yorks.	SD931769	4	Kirk Gill Pot	Yorks.	
King Pot	Yorks.	SD709776	5			

(Dates are intentionally removed – Members will already have the full Meets List, and will be reminded of forthcoming Meets by e-mail.)



June 26th, 2019: Derbyshire Cave Rescue Organisation Training Event.

A bunch of us hardy types (including several CCPC Members) met up at Eldon Quarry to play with a **Larkin Frame**. For those who don't know, a Larkin Frame is a sort of three-dimensional puzzle, consisting of a number of high-tech poles and joints which can be assembled to produce a (there must be a proper name for the mathematical shape which results), anyway, it can be used to swing a rescuer out, over (and away from) a cliff edge, so he/she can be lowered safely to a casualty. Then, the casualty and rescuer can be hauled back to the cliff top, and the frame can be pivoted to bring them both away from the drop and onto solid ground. Very useful for places like Eldon Hole.

<https://www.facebook.com/DerbyshireCaveRescue>

I was hoping to make this Newsletter up to 10 pages, but sadly, most contributions from Members seem to have got lost in the post ! Better luck next time. Cheers, Steve Knox, Editor.